



*Informing Professional Geologists
of the events and developments
that affect their profession*

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Are You Receiving the Latest
Licensing News?

Your Board Members

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Administrator

Lorin Doyle
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Emma Butler
Program Representative

Elizabeth Stancil
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Brett Lorentson
Management Analyst

Message from The Chair

R. Scott Babcock

The Geologist Licensing Board has a mission to improve the quality of the practice of geology in Washington State. A major contribution to this mission is the publication of "Guidelines for Preparing Engineering Reports in Washington". A committee of engineering geologists led by Board member Ken Neal prepared the report, which has been distributed throughout the state and is currently available on the DOL Geologist website.

Another part of the mission is preparation of exams for licensing engineering geologists and hydrogeologists. The first Engineering Geologist Examination, prepared in partnership with the Oregon Licensing Board, was given to two applicants on October 6, 2006. Both examinees passed the examination.

This part of the Board's work is ongoing. The Board will be conducting job analysis surveys for the hydrogeology examination in the upcoming months. Any licensed hydrogeologist willing to participate in this essential work is asked to contact the Board.

The Board welcomes Dick Galster as our newest appointee. Most of Dick's career was spent as an engineering geologist in the Seattle office of the Army Corps of Engineers. Dick's extensive experience with some of the critical geologic problems in the Pacific Northwest will bring a valuable perspective to the Board.

In cooperation with the Washington Attorney General's office, active members of the Geologist Licensing Board have been trained in the procedures of disciplinary action. With this understanding of the legal processes involved, future disciplinary inquiries and hearings should be more expedited.

The Board is considering creation of a new designation for Washington State geologists called Geologist-in-Training (GIT), similar to the Engineer-in-Training that already exists. While this concept is in its preliminary stages, initial discussions have contemplated issuing certificates to graduates of a qualified geology program after passing the Fundamentals portion of the ASBOG exam. The GIT would convey no special privileges, but would be verification that a job candidate had mastered the fundamentals of the science. If you have an opinion on the GIT, please contact the Board.

Best wishes for the New Year from the Geologist Licensing Board. We look forward to your continuing input and participation.

Administrative services are provided to the Board by the Department of Licensing. The Department and the Board have a policy of providing equal access to its services. If you need special accommodation, please call (360) 664-1497 or TTY (360) 664-8885.

ASBOG Council of Examiners Workshop and Annual Meeting

The National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) held its annual Council of Examiners workshop and Annual Meeting October 31 – November 5 in Park City, Utah. Board members Jeff Randall and Ken Neal represented Washington State at the Council of Examiners workshop. Dr. Randall acted as the voting delegate at the Annual Meeting.

Council of Examiners

Psychometricians Jack Warner and Steve Warner prepared preliminary exam scores and statistics from the recently administered October 2006 Fundamentals of Geology and the Practice of Geology exams. The Council of Examiners evaluated the exam questions along with the statistics and comments supplied by the examinees. The Council decided to eliminate questions from the scoring or allow two correct answers. The examinations will be rescored and results sent to the examinees. The Council of Examiners then reviewed the questions from the two exams to be given in March 2007.

The psychometricians also evaluated the test blueprints, looking at the distribution of questions across the content domains (subject areas). The October 2006 exams represented a more equitable division of questions in the subject areas. The test blueprints can be found on ASBOG's website at

<http://www.asbog.org>. This rigorous scrutiny by both the profession and the psychometricians helps create defensible and reliable examinations.

Annual Meeting

ASBOG funding was a prominent topic at the annual meeting. Currently, ASBOG is funded through examination fees, state member dues, and one-time access fees charged to new state members. As fewer states join ASBOG the revenue forecast has flattened, leaving the organization to explore long- and short-term funding models. In order to provide better financial forecasting, the delegates from the member states passed a motion directing the Executive Committee to develop a 5-year business plan for ASBOG.

The Executive Committee proposed the formation of a foundation to address long-term funding needs. The foundation would be a separate entity from ASBOG, but tied closely through bylaws dedicated to funding activities associated with ASBOG's primary product, the two examinations. These activities include developing question banks, travel costs for the Council of Examiners, specialty/modular exams, psychometric analysis, education, and outreach.

Board Meetings

The Board holds four regular meetings a year, with special meetings as needed.

March 20, 2007

Board's Annual Meeting – Olympia, WA

June 12, 2007

Regular Board Meeting – Olympia, WA

September 18, 2007

Regular Board Meeting at WSU – Pullman, WA

December 11, 2007

Regular Board Meeting – Olympia, WA

The 2008 meeting schedule will be determined at the December 2007 meeting.

You are invited to attend Board meetings and give Board members feedback on issues related to licensure. The meeting times and room locations can be found on the geologist website address at:

www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist



The Geologist Licensing Board newsletter is published quarterly. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a copy of this publication, please contact us at:

Mailing address: PO Box 9045 • Olympia, WA 98507-9045

Street address: 405 Black Lake Blvd. • Olympia, WA 98502

Phone: (360) 664-1497

Fax: (360) 664-1495

E-Mail: Geologist@dol.wa.gov

Web site: www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist

The information in the newsletter is being made available to you as a public service by the Washington Geologist Licensing Board and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Neither the Board, nor any agency, officer, or employee of the state of Washington, warrants the accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of any information in this newsletter. Any opinions expressed in the articles are those of each author. It is the responsibility of each licensee to know, and comply with the laws relating to Geologists.

New Board Member—Galster

We are very pleased to introduce Richard W. Galster as the new member to the Geologist Licensing Board. Department of Licensing Director Liz Luce made the appointment on August 18, and his four-year board term continues until May 1, 2010.

Dick has BS and MS degrees in Geology from the University of Washington. He has worked in Engineering Geology for 56 years, much of it with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the past 21 years as a consultant. He also served as an adjunct faculty with the U.W. Department of Civil Engineering for several years, and is widely published in society journals and a major state publication.

New Staff Introduction

Lorin Doyle, Program Manager

Lorin Doyle spent 10 years with the Washington State Arts Commission, managing the public art and artwork conservation programs. She most recently served as a software systems manager with the Department of General Administration.

Lorin has degrees in art history and psychology. She has an eclectic background that includes database design, and visual and performing arts.

Washington State Board Of Registration For Geologists

Licensing Activity Statistical Information for the reporting period of 6/1/2006 to 12/31/2006

Reciprocity applications processed	14
Licenses granted by Reciprocity.....	14
Exam applications processed.....	21
Licenses granted ASBOG exam	19

License Status as of 12/31/2006

Active Washington Licenses.....	1331
Active Out-of-State Licenses	852
Total Active Licenses	2183

Examination Statistics

October 2006 Exam	Examinees	Passed	Failed
Fundamentals of Geology	18	18	0
Practice of Geology	16	16	0
Engineering Geologist	2	2	0

Board Vacancy—Announcement

Are you interested in serving on the Geology Licensing Board? We anticipate one Geology Licensing Board vacancy May 2007.

How to I apply?

If you are interested in applying please visit our website for application materials; or contact Board staff to request application materials to be sent to you, by telephone (360) 664-1497 or email geologist@dol.wa.gov.

What does the board do?

The Geologist Licensing Board provides consumer protection to the public through the licensing of geologists.

Who is on the board?

- Five licensed geologists, two of whom must be licensed in a specialty of geology (Engineering Geologist, Hydrogeologist).
- One member of the general public with no family or business connection with the practice of geology.
- The Supervisor of Geology of the Department of Natural Resources (ex-officio member).

How are board members appointed?

Board members are appointed by the Director of the Department of Licensing. Members serve four-year terms, which are staggered so no more than two appointments are made in any calendar year.

For complete information, please see RCW 18.220.030: Geologist Licensing Board.

What are the responsibilities of board members?

- Provide professional knowledge to improve the services provided to geologists and the public.
- Attend all board meetings. The board usually meets four times a year. Meeting dates, times, and locations are decided by the board and administrative staff.
- Spend approximately eight hours a month on board business.

Are board members paid?

Members are paid \$50 per day for the time spent at meetings and for work done outside of meetings on board business, and are reimbursed for certain expenses related to traveling to and from board meetings.

Some Do's and Don'ts Regarding Engineering Geology Reports

Ken Neal

Over the past few months, I've had the occasion to review a number of reports authored by engineering geologists, and have identified several issues that require clarification. The following comments are provided to help you in selecting report titles, and signing and stamping reports:

Report Titles and Services:

If you use the title "geotechnical engineering" on your reports without the participation of an engineer, you might expect to encounter the wrath of your engineering brethren. The word "geotechnical" was coined by an engineering geologist, and is applicable to both engineering and geological disciplines. Engineering geologists do provide geotechnical investigations, geotechnical evaluations, geotechnical assessments, and other geotechnical services, and provide a variety of geotechnical documents. Engineering geologists do not, however, provide "geotechnical engineering" services, nor are they entitled to write a "geotechnical engineering" report, unless a geotechnical engineer actively participates in the providing of those services, and signs and stamps the report.

Signing and Stamping of Reports:

1. If you are in responsible charge of the geological services that are applied to a project, you must sign and stamp the final project report, even if the report is a geotechnical engineering report signed and stamped by an engineer.
2. You cannot use the title "engineering geologist" on your reports (or on your cards or other advertising) unless you are licensed as an engineering geologist.

Project Responsibilities:

If you are not licensed as a geologist, it is not appropriate for you to conduct geological work for an engineer or other professional as a subordinate employee or contractor for their use in providing geotechnical or other services "for others." A licensed geologist must be in responsible charge of geological work "for others." An unlicensed geologist can work for an engineer or other professional as a technician or in another non-geologist capacity, as long as they do

not perform geological studies, interpretation, analyses, or other services, and they do not use the title "geologist." That does not preclude a geotechnical engineer from providing professional engineering services excepted under the statute.

Message from National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

Sam Christiano, Executive Director.

A memorandum was distributed by ASBOG that reported there will be a \$50.00 increase to the National Examination fee for the Practice of Geology (PG) for a total cost of \$200.00 per candidate per examination. This increase becomes effective with the October 2008 exams.

Geologist Licensing Fees Suspension

As of March 1, 2006 the Geologist Board suspended and replaced the previously charged annual renewal fees. (See Table Below) This reduction is a temporary suspension of fees. The suspension of fees has been created to ensure that the fees collected from licensees may establish an optimum balance between revenues and expenditures for the licensing program. This action has been taken to ensure collection of sufficient revenues to administer the program with a modest fund balance as a "safety net."

Title of Fee	Old Fees	New Fees
Renewal (1 year)	\$100	\$20
Late Renewal Penalty	\$200	\$40
1 Specialty Renewal Fee	\$85	\$25
1 Specialty Renewal with Penalty	\$170	\$50
2 Specialty Renewal Fee	\$170	\$50
2 Specialty Renewal Fee with Penalty	\$340	\$100

Questions about the fee structure can be directed to the Board staff at (360) 664-1497, or refer to WAC 308-15-150 Fees.

Congratulations!

The Board would like to welcome all new Washington State Geologist Licensees during the period of June 2006 to December 2006.

Examination Licensees

A. Brooke Asbury	David M. Nelson
Brett A. Bardsley	Ruth Otteman
Brett T. Beaulieu	Kevin R. Pogue
Ronald M. Bek	Scott I. Rose
Matthew A. Benson	Kevin M. Roth
Eric L. Bilderback	Ted L. Sager
Chris G. Cass	Taryn E. Sass
Gregory B. Graham	Carol F. Serdar
Paul W. D. Humphreys	Steven T. Swenson
Scott L. MacDonald	

New Engineering Geologist Licensees

Ulf G. Gwildis	Jeffrey P. Laub
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Reciprocity Licensees

Stephen G. Belluomini	Melissa L. Pleva
Jill S. Betts	Brian C. Ranney
John G. Cook	Ryan A. Shatt
Micheline A. Doyle-Kipf	Anthony G. Silva
Michael H. Friedman	Sean P. Trimble
Adam H. Harris	Mark R. Trudell
Obiajului Nzewi	Mark T. Zeko

Announcement of EG Guidelines

The Washington State Department of Licensing's Geologist Licensing Board has recently published Guidelines for Preparing Engineering Geology Reports in Washington. This guideline is currently on the website to read and use as guidance when preparing reports. These guidelines were developed for the following purposes:

1. To serve as a resource for consumers who engage the services of engineering geologists; and
2. To act as a reference for engineering geologists as they practice their profession.

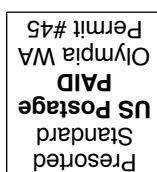
The guidelines are intended to improve the quality and consistency of engineering geology reports in Washington.

Are You Receiving the Latest Licensing News?

In the near future, your profession's licensing-related news will only be by e-communication. If you are not on the Geologist ListServ, please sign up today.

To join the ListServ, visit our web site:
www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist.

- Under "What's New", select "Join Mailing List"
- Select the ListServ® link
- Select the "Join or leave the list (or change settings)" link
- Enter your email address and name, then select the join list button
- You will be sent a confirmation email, and then you will be added to the broadcast list.



Geologists Licensing Board
PO Box 9045
Olympia, WA 98507-9045

